

## ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

An aerial vehicle recovery system includes a landing pad secured or securable to a supporting surface. The landing pad  
5 has an upwardly facing capture surface having a passive retaining medium thereon. The aerial vehicle to be recovered includes one or more shoes affixed to a lower portion of the aerial vehicle. The shoes have a complementary passive retaining medium thereon configured to mate or interlock with  
10 or adhere to or otherwise interface with the retaining medium of the capture surface on the landing pad. The retaining medium on the landing pad and the complementary retaining medium on the aerial vehicle together form a passive retaining system that retains the vehicle on the landing pad upon the exertion  
15 of sufficient compressive force by the vehicle on the capture surface. The aerial vehicle recovery system can be used in conjunction with a variety of supporting surfaces, such as a ship's deck, an offshore platform, a truck bed, or the ground.

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